MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE LOUISIANA RECOVERY AUTHORITY AND THE LOUISIANA DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION

WHEREAS the Governor created the Louisiana Recovery Authority (LRA) and appointed its 26 member board to provide broad oversight and guidance to the state's rebuilding effort after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita;

WHEREAS the Congress has appropriated to Louisiana up to \$6.2 billion in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) for recovery and rebuilding the state;

WHEREAS Governor Blanco desires that the LRA develop and implement broad policy and program decisions for the CDBG program consistent with its oversight and guidance of the state's rebuilding effort;

WHEREAS the Governor instructs that, as it develops the state's CDBG program in response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the LRA must take advantage of the capabilities and assets of the Division of Administration (DOA), which has operated the state's CDBG program with great success and with recognition from state and federal auditors for operating a high quality and accountable program; and

WHEREAS the Governor directs that the LRA and the Division of Administration establish a clear and effective relationship for implementation of the Governor's plan for the CDBG program.

The undersigned agree to the following:

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- The LRA is designated by the Governor to be responsible for establishing the priorities to be incorporated into the Action Plan, Partial Action Plans, or Plan Amendments for use of CDBG funds appropriated to Louisiana in response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.
- The Office of Community Development (OCD) within the DOA is designated by the Governor to be the fiscal agent responsible to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the CDBG funds with responsibility for audit, monitoring, internal controls, cash management, contract management, reporting, and other fiscal services.
- The OCD will submit quarterly reports to the LRA detailing the status of CDBG funds appropriated in response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, including the status of contracts issued pursuant to grant awards.
- The OCD will assist the LRA by reviewing draft plans submitted to the LRA from entities
 wishing to utilize CDBG funds. The OCD will review proposed activities for eligibility and for
 compliance with national objectives and other federal requirements and will provide technical
 assistance to the LRA regarding such requirements.

The LRA is eligible to receive CDBG funding through OCD for eligible planning and operational costs and to support staff necessary to implement Louisiana's recovery goals in accordance with the approved Action Plan or Partial Action Plans.

The OCD and LRA will coordinate all policy meetings, policy calls, reports, and correspondence, including electronic correspondence, with HUD officials regarding the CDBG program, as related to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita recovery.

The OCD will host grantee workshops and provide technical advice to assist grantees in complying with applicable federal regulations.

Prior to grant award, the LRA may review any application for a project to determine that the project is consistent with LRA adopted recovery and mitigation policies. The OCD will provide to the LRA the results of the OCD review and analysis of the application to assist in such review.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this MOU has been signed by the undersigned duly authorized representatives, at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, this _______ day of February, 2006.

WITNESSES:

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Commissioner of Administration

LOUISIANA RECOVERY AUTHORITY

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATI

STATE OF LOUISIANA

Jerry Luke LeBlanc

WITNESSES:

Dr. Norman C. Francis

Chairman